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# Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, September 13, 1967

FHSU Faculty Senate

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Discussion: Duties of the Faculty Senate.  
English Proficiency - to determine grade required in English Comp. II, 51.  
(Note: On June 20, 1967, Senate abolished English Proficiency Test as of September 1, 1967.)

RECOMMENDATION: It was recommended that D in English Composition II, 51 be regarded as sufficient for English Proficiency. Motion made and seconded, motion carried. This will be our policy as of September 1, 1967, and applies to transferees as well as our own students. Those in favor - 6; opposed - 3.

Discussion: Topics for the future: New courses; Pass/Fail System and assemblies as they affect classes.

**Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate, Wednesday, September 13, 1967, at 3:30 p.m. in the Office of the Dean of the Faculty.**

**Members Present:** Mr. Bryan Bachkora, Mr. Elton Schroder, Dr. Archie Thomas, Dr. Sameul<sup>UE</sup> Hamilton, Mrs. Nancy Popp, Mrs. Alice McFarland, Mr. Robert Smith, Miss Connie Gangwer, Dr. Maurice Witten, Mr. Richard Heil, Mr. S. V. Dalton and Dr. John Garwood, Chairman.

**Members absent:** Dr. William Wilkins.

**Also present:** Mr. James Kellerman.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Garwood, Chairman.

The members introduced themselves and stated the Division they represented.

Dr. Garwood announced the Faculty Senate would meet on Monday at 3:30 p.m.

Weekly notices will be sent out advising the date of the next meeting with the agenda of the meeting.

Dr. Garwood stated that Mr. Dalton and Dr. Coder are ex officio members and that he is the Chairman of the Senate. The Faculty Senate discusses and determines the academic program of the College and deals with such matters as probation and suspensions, English Proficiency, courses added, et cetera.

At the June 13th and June 20th meetings English Proficiency examination was discussed.

In the minutes dated June 20, 1967, it was recommended, seconded and the motion carried that we no longer hold an English Proficiency Test. The President requested the Senate to state the grade required in English Composition II 51 to demonstrate English Proficiency. The Recommendation read: "It was recommended that the English Proficiency Test be abolished as of the first of September, 1967."

One member stated a D should be sufficient in English Composition II, 51. In essence, a C is required and a D is practically eliminated from grading. His Division feels a D is a passing grade. Some Divisions were divided on the question. Formerly a B in English I and II demonstrated English proficiency. Then a C in English Composition II, 51 was the rule. If the grade is lowered, then we drop from B to D. On the other hand if D is passing in other courses, it should be accepted for English Composition II, 51. It was suggested that possibly other areas of study might wish to require a "C" to demonstrate proficiency.

Dr. Garwood read excerpts from a letter dated June 27 which Dr. W. R. Thompson of the Division of Language, Literature and Speech addressed to Dr. Garwood. In it he stated the English staff was disturbed at the Senate's decision regarding the course English Composition II, 51. He stated it is the only course in which a D is questioned by the College. The standards for teaching this course are rigorous and he stated that D's satisfy minimal standards of proficiency.

One member said a student should repeat the course if necessary if he saw he was unable to write proficiently.

English Composition II, 51, is a junior course and is a more rigorous course than the original English Composition II. It was pointed out that D- students in English do not improve much over the years.

It was noted that English was taught in other than English classes. Other instructors teach English in their classes. English 51 should be treated as any other course. A D in English should be the same as a D in any other course. It is an indication of having met the requirement. On the other hand, if our standards are changed from B to C then to D, is this not a lowering of Standards?

The Registrar stated if the course is repeated (if a student had to repeat to make a C), the student would have to fill out a card that he is retaking the

course so the transcript shows the points and hours have been adjusted accordingly.

It was stated if a student is working toward a degree and English Proficiency is required and established by a C in English 51, then D is a failing grade. Are we legislating how the English Department should grade a course? This member saw no reason why we should change the English area's standard of grading.

Dr. Garwood summarized the discussion by noting that the arguments for permitting a D grade in English 51 as demonstrating proficiency are that: English 51 should be treated like any other course. This is a junior course and it will be a more difficult course than English Composition II. A minimum grade of C pressures faculty to give C's. Formerly a student had an alternative, i.e., he could take the English Proficiency test and with the alternate taken away, he has to get a C.

On the other side of the picture, we have gone from a grade of B and recently to C, and now we suggest going to a D, it appears that we are lowering our standards. Some feel English is extremely important and so this much emphasis needs to be made. People often judge a person by his use of English. If we use it as a language where it is acceptable to have a low grade in a foreign language, the student should still have command of his own language.

The question was raised about voting on the issue. Why not turn the matter over to the English area to decide. It was explained that this is a College ruling and not a division matter.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It was recommended that D in English Composition II, 51 be regarded as sufficient for English Proficiency. Motion made and seconded, motion carried. This will be our policy as of September 1, 1967 and applies to transferees as well as our own students. Those in favor - 6, opposed - 3.

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NEW COURSES. Dr. Garwood stated a number of new courses will be brought before the Senate in October. This is not the catalog year, however. The Senate approves new courses added and then they are placed in the schedule of classes for next year and in the next catalog. If a Division is looking for new courses for next year, we need proposals so we can act on them. Dr. Garwood stated we have 3-4 proposals for new courses which came in last summer. A sub-committee of 3 Faculty Senate members is established to contact Division representatives and consult with them to determine the merits of a new course, etc. The Committee recommends to the Senate.

PASS/FAIL. Dr. Garwood stated there were 15 institutions in the country which have the Pass/Fail system. Pertinent information will be sent to all Faculty Senate members. This topic was discussed in the summer and the concensus was to wait and see how this system works at Kansas University and Pittsburg. Dr. Garwood suggested the Senate members consider this topic for a future meeting. He stated the idea of taking a course was to get either Pass or Fail rather than a grade. (Student Council favors Pass/Fail)

ASSEMBLIES. For Artist and Lecture programs <sup>which</sup> require a shortening of classes, the Senate makes the decision whether or not classes are to be dismissed or shortened.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

John D. Garwood, Chairman

Lucilae Drees, Recorder